

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

TOPIC Military Information from Sokolov and Horni Zendorf

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 29 December 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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Artillery Units in Sokolov.

1. Prior to early June 1952, a motorized artillery unit was quartered in Sokolov (Falknov, N 51/P 58) in the Kraslicke Barracks north-west of the main railroad station. The installation covered an area of 500 x 500 meters and consisted of two three-story brick buildings and wooden sheds, garages and shelters. It was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, 2 meters high. A nearby brickyard was made part of the installation in 1950. The unit quartered there had an estimated strength of 700 to 800 men. Up to twenty guns were counted when the unit marched to the Kaiserwald training camp, south of the town. About 10 or 12 of these were 100 to 120-mm guns on solid rubber-tire disk wheels. They had barrels without muzzle brake, gun cradles, protective shields slanting backward and split trail carriages and Skoda or Tatra motor trucks for prime movers. A number of light guns which were of considerably smaller size, were drawn by light Praga RN motor trucks. Three or four rocket launchers similar to German rocket mortars, were seen only rarely. New recruits who had arrived at the barracks in February or March 1952 received basic training.<sup>1</sup>

2. In May 1952, a motorized artillery unit was observed in the barracks installation on the northeast side of the road to Vittkov (Wittingrueen, N 51/P 58) near the southeast exit of the town. The barracks consisted of about 15 low stone buildings surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, about 2 meters high. Five or six two-story houses for officers were west of the installation.

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The units numbered at least 1,000 men. [redacted] soldiers with black and green collar patches who wore red-bordered epaulets. About five guns of the type observed at the Kraslicke Barracks were noticed. No rocket launchers were seen.<sup>2</sup>

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3. Prior to June 1952, a unit of about 500 men, with red service colors was quartered in the castle on the south edge of the town bordering Benesch Street on the west and Julius Fucik Street on the northwest. They were armed with rifles and had numerous trucks. The castle was in a park surrounded by an old high wall.<sup>3</sup>

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4. In early 1950, about 500 men were billeted in the former monastery west of the castle on the west side of Benesch Street. The unit had horse-drawn vehicles.
5. The former Horseshoe Inn north of the monastery quartered military units since the summer of 1951.
6. A military repair shop for motor vehicles was just west of the barracks installation described in paragraph 2 on the fork of the road south of the castle.
7. A former mill located southwest of the main railroad station on the north bank of Cvitava River was used as a military warehouse.
8. Young men of the 1951 class were drafted in the Sokolov district in September 1951. Others of the 1951 and 1952 classes were drafted in the spring of 1952.<sup>1</sup>

Military Information from the Border District of Hor.Zandov.

9. Prior to the middle of June 1952, PS soldiers with green service color and a dog-head emblem, who were armed with light infantry weapons, were quartered in a barracks installation about 500 meters south of Hor.Zandov railroad station (Ober Zandau, II 51/F 46). The installation consisted of two two-story brick buildings.
10. A barracks installation consisting of some new low brick buildings was about 2 km south of the Hor. Zandov railroad station and served as quarters for a NKB unit with red collar patches.
11. The rear border of the prohibited zone was on the east edge of the woodlands west and southwest of Hor.Zandov. Ten to 15 concrete shelters, 5 to 6 meters long and 2.5 meters high, were at forest clearings trails and roads in the vast woodland southeast of Ulrichcov (Ulrichsgruen, II 50/P 46). They had loop holes. While some of these shelters housed 20 soldiers from 15 to 17 June 1951, they were vacant from 10 to 13 June 1952. Field fortifications consisting of communication trenches and underground shelters were observed on several points.

1. Comment. This information confirms reports that the Kraslickie Barracks and the Vitkev barracks quarter artillery units. The Kraslickie Barracks apparently quarters a unit equipped with the old model 18 German light field howitzers [in March 1952].<sup>2</sup> The Vitkev Barracks quartered an artillery regiment<sup>3</sup> [consisted of nine batteries with four 76-mm guns each. It is doubted, however, that the regiment is the 14th Arty Regt, as the 13th Inf Div was dissolved and was replaced in this district by the 12th Inf Div. A second artillery regiment possibly is being organized from the 12th Inf Div. This hypothesis is supported by information from the area of the 2d Inf Div.]

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2. Comment. A PS unit, with green collar pads, was reported located in the Kraslickie Barracks in November 1951.

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3. Comment. This information confirms previous information that a unit with red collars was quartered in the castle. According to reference report this unit had, however, only a strength of 50 to 60 soldiers. [This unit as well as the units quartered in the buildings mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 cannot be identified.]

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4. Comment. It is noteworthy that ten of the 1952 classes were drafted in the spring of 1952. They may have been only a few or volunteers.

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5. Comment. It is assumed that this PS unit belongs to the 1st Dn in Kolni Zandov of the 12th PS Brig in Plana.

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